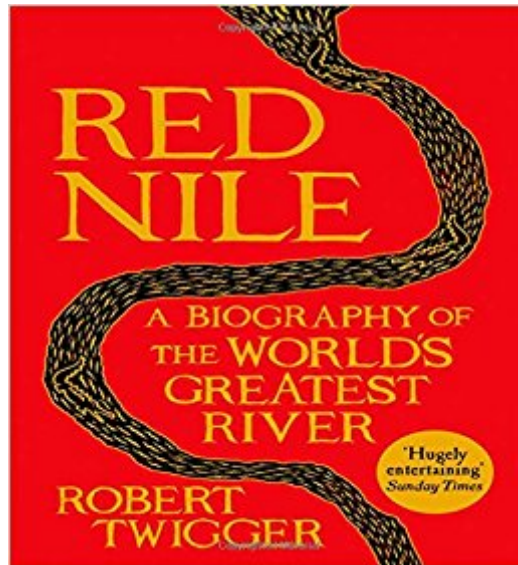




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# Red Nile: A Biography Of The World's Greatest River



## Synopsis

From religion, to language, to the stories rooted in our faith and history books, the Nile River has proven to be a constant fixture in mankind's tales. In this dazzling, idiosyncratic journey from ancient times to the Arab Spring, *Red Nile* navigates a meandering course through the history of the world's greatest river, exploring this unique breeding ground for creativity, power clashes, and constant change. Seasoned historical writer Robert Twigger connects the comprehensive history of the Nile with his personal experience of living in Egypt while researching the Nile's historical origins. Twigger covers the entirety of the river, charting the length of the Nile from its disputed origins through Africa on a whirlwind tour of the rulers, explorers, conquerors, generals, and novelists who painted the Nile "red." Both comprehensive and intimate, this narrative guides readers through history by way of the mighty river known across the world. The result of this meticulously researched book is an all-inclusive history of this epic river and the incredible connections throughout history. The stories of excess, love, passion, splendor, and violence are what make the Nile so engaging, even after centuries of change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Robert Twigger’s *Red Nile: A Biography of the World’s Greatest River* abounds in tales of grand dreams and thwarted ambitions. A book that, like the Nile itself, teems with life. • The New York Times Book Review “A rich tapestry of Nile lore and legend, stretching from the ancients to the fall of the latest tyrant, the author compiles a vast compendium of drama and history around the attempts to control the Nile. Somewhat chronological

but hardly linear, Twigger's labor of love meanders, much like its subject. *“A painstaking work of research and careful observation.”* *—Kirkus Reviews* *“A bona fide media daredevil with brains and balls beyond the norm.”* *—Andrew Martin, Daily Telegraph* *“An entertaining and absorbing read.”* *—Anthony Sattin, The Guardian (UK)* *“Robert Twigger's ambitious biography of the Nile is an unexpected triumph...a scintillatingly colourful account of a river and a region Twigger knows intimately...an elegiac moving book...hugely entertaining...probably the author's magnum opus.”* *—Sunday Times* *“Twigger has found a narrative voice all too rare in contemporary travel writing: clear-eyed, unaffected, deadpan, slyly witty and unobtrusively erudite.”* *—James Delingpole, Mail on Sunday*

Robert Twigger attended Oxford University and later spent a year training at Martial Arts with the Tokyo Riot Police. He has won the Newdigate prize for poetry, the Somerset Maugham award for literature and the William Hill Sports Book of the Year award. In addition to writing books, he has written for Esquire, Maxim, the Daily Telegraph, and the Financial Times. He divides his time between Cairo and the United Kingdom.

Twigger is an excellent story teller with a great story to tell which he does with brio! A true biography of the longest river in the world. I am an avid reader with a good memory and interest in History and I must say he wrote a history that I was not fully aware of. Fascinating personalities populate his book, with biographical information I knew very little about and which I found fascinating. Personages such as: Pharaoh Menes, Cleopatra, King Herod, Mary Mother of Jesus, Hypatia, Ibn al-Haythem, Anwar the Druze, Maimonides, Duke of Abruzzi, Flaubert and Kuchuk Hanem, Samuel Baker, Jean Baptiste Marchand, Hiram Maxim, Iroquois Indians on the Nile, Ferdinand de Lesseps, Churchill, Orde Wingate, Wilfred Thesiger, Agatha Christi, Sadat. This fascinating list of engaging historical personages just fills the pages of this history with mesmerizing information. This is just one aspect of this engaging history. It is a grand sweep of the historical Nile and a geography on an exceptionally erudite level. The best book I have read in two or three years!

Highly engaging and informative, this work ranges from Pharaonic times to Napoleon, and from Alexander the Great to Anwar Sadat and the Arab Spring. Not a straightforward *“what-led-to-what, and when”* historical rendering, but a succession of sub-stories about the complex connections of the Nile with native and European peoples and

their cultures, settlements and cities, wars, inventions, religions, and allegiances. One comes away with a deep sense of the demanding physical conditions of the Nile Basin, along with the flora and fauna of the entire region, as well as the profound ecological impact of specific engineering decisions on the African continent.

An incredible history of the Nile and all things connected with it based on excellent research and personal experience. A must read for general knowledge. Geology, history, personal histories of pharaohs, kings, explorers of various parts of Africa, geography etc., etc. and much, much more. It is all there.....

Book like new. Terrific story and a nice condensation of several explorer books I've read

Fun and informative to read with some mildly naughty bits too. Decent illustrations.

Brilliant. A true polymath masterpiece.

excellent

A great pleasure to find. Triggers book is an Odyssey, a very readable exploration of the Nile River as it has influenced 5000 years of history. Well researched and filled with anecdotes trivia and action. The book moves quickly and ties great swaths of change and adventure around the central theme of this great river. Moving back and forth seamlessly from present to ancient events this is history in the hands of an accomplished spinner of tales. An extremely entertaining and rewarding doorway into Africa and the compelling physical and historical narrative that this river and region have engendered.

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